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MEDIA RELEASE

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**SENATOR RUNNER RECEIVES “CLEAN AIR LEADER” AWARD
FORT IRWIN, LOCKHEED, GOLDSTONE ALSO RECOGNIZED BY MDAQMD**

Victorville – Senator George Runner (R-Antelope Valley) was recognized today for spearheading legislation that could help keep businesses in California while bringing jobs and cleaner air to the High Desert, as the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) presented its 2004/2005 *Exemplar* Awards during a reception held in Victorville.

Senator Runner was on hand to receive the inaugural “Clean Air Leader” *Exemplar* Award in recognition of his sponsorship of Senate Bill 475, which would allow businesses relocating from the Los Angeles Basin, Orange County, Riverside County and the San Bernardino Valley to use air credits generated “down the hill” to help them meet air quality permitting requirements in the High Desert. Because there is a finite supply of emission reduction credits – and because most of the High Desert’s air pollution is windblown from urban areas south of the Cajon Pass – the interbasin transfer of credits represents an equitable compromise, since businesses relocating to the High Desert are required to offset their emissions to insure that

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local pollution limits are not exceeded. Moreover, because businesses are required to obtain three air credits for every one needed to offset emissions, the proposed bill would achieve a net reduction in air pollution for local communities. According to MDAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell, Senator Runner's bill "protects the environment while fostering sustainable economic growth in the High Desert."

After accepting his award, Senator Runner assisted MDAQMD officials in presenting *Exemplar* Awards to three local entities. **ITT Industries/Goldstone Deep Space Network (DSN)** received the "Innovation in Transportation" award for replacing 15 of its 78 fleet vehicles with Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) which run on conventional or ethanol-based fuel. Over the next two years, Goldstone plans to replace an additional 28 vehicles with FFVs that use E85, a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% petroleum that produces significantly less hydrocarbon and greenhouse emissions than regular fuel. Goldstone's fifth-ever *Exemplar* was accepted by DSN Program Manager Patrick Carr and Goldstone Complex Manager Sonny Giroux.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics received the "Technology Advancement" award for implementing a cutting-edge environmental data management program at its radio frequency test range facility located in Helendale. By using the "opsEnvironmental" software, Lockheed has increased its ability to assure compliance with environmental regulations, while reducing man-hours required to prepare state-mandated emission inventories from 800 to five per year.

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Michael Haro, Manager of Environmental Resources, and George Jung, Air Quality Specialist/

Environmental Safety & Health, accepted the *Exemplar* on behalf of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

The National Training Center & Fort Irwin received a record seventh *Exemplar* Award for implementing significant enhancements to its multi-year dust mitigation program, which has dramatically reduced airborne dust at the 1,050 square mile installation since its 1997 launch. Recent enhancements include the re-seeding of 56 desert acres with 28 native plant species, and the application of 3,700 tons of dust suppressant to a 22-mile dirt road used in transporting training equipment and personnel, an action which is expected to reduce airborne particulates by up to 146 tons annually. The 2004/2005 *Exemplar* Award was accepted by Lt. Colonel Paul D. Cramer, Director of Public Works at Fort Irwin, and Muhammad Bari, Environmental Division Chief.

The *Exemplar* Awards recognize High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of activities/projects that reduce air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. The awards are presented each September by the local regulatory air agency in observance of National Pollution Prevention Week.

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